

## Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 MED-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-06 SS-15 NSC-05

SSO-00 INRE-00 /055 W

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O 082326Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7260

INFO ALL CONSULATES IN MEXICO VIA POUCH

UNCLAS MEXICO 11526

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC MX

SUBJECT: HUNGER STRIKE BY US PRISONERS

REF MEXICO 8285, 10125

1. REFTELS MAKE CLEAR THAT ADEQUATE MEDICAL TREATMENT IS NOT AS GENERAL RULE, AVAILABLE TO PRISONERS INCARCERATED IN MEXICAN JAILS. IN MEXICO 10125, EMBASSY SUGGESTED THAT FUNDING BE SOUGHT FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR PRISONERS. THE DEPT'S REACTION TO THIS PROPOSAL HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED.

2. IN VIEW OF PRISONER HUNGER STRIKE WHICH COMMENCED SEPT. 7, EMBASSY CONSIDERS IT MADATORY THAT DEPT GIVE MOST URGENT CONSIDERATION TO MEASURES FOR PROVIDING EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO PRISONERS. CONSULAR OFFICERS ARE NOT QUALIFIED TO DETERMINE STATE OF HEALTH OF PRISONERS AS STRIKE PROGRESSES, NOR CAN PRISON MEDICAL OFFICERS BE DEPENDED UPON TO FURNISH RELIABLE DIAGNOSES. WE BELIEVE MOST PRACTICAL STEP WOULD BE TO ARRANGE TO SEND THREE MEDICAL DOCTORS TDY TO EMBASSY FOR PURPOSES OF MONITORING CLOSELY MEDICAL CONDITION OF PRISONERS. DEPT COULD SEEK TDY PHYSICIANNNS FROM ITS OWN MEDICAL DIVISION, FROM PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, UNCLASSIFIED

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FROM HIH, FOR FROM US MILITARY.

3. WE WOULD USE THREE DOCTORS AS MEDICAL ADVISERS TO CONSULAR OFFICERS OPERATING OUT OF MEXICO CITY, MERIDA, GUADALAJARA, HERMOSILLO, MONTERREY, AND MAZATLAN. FOR BORDER POSTS AT MATAMOROS, NUEVO LAREDO, CIUDAD JUAREZ, AND TIJUANA, WE WOULD HOPE THAT DEPT COULD MAKE ARRANGMENTS FOR PHYSICIANS FROM NEARBY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE FACILITIES OR OTHER US FACILITIES TO ASSIST WITH THIS PROJECT.

4. IF THE HUNGER STRIKE PERSISTS, THERE IS POSSIBILITY OF LOSS OF LIFE. HAVING US DOCTORS ASSIGNED AS MEDICAL ADVISERS WOULD NOT GUARANTEE AGAINST LOSS OF LIFE BUT COULD POSSIBLY PREVENT SUCH AN OCCURRENCE. AT LEAST IT WOULD PUT THE EMBASSY AND THE DEPT OF STATE IN A POSITION TO DEMONSTRATE THAT WE HAD DONE WHAT WAS POSSIBLE TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF THE PRISONERS. IF US PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE DOCTORS CAN BE ASSIGNED ABROAD TO SUPERVISE THE MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS OF ALIENS APPLYING FOR ENTRANCE TO THE US OR WE CAN SEND US MEDICAL TEAMS TO FOREIGN LANDS IN TIMES OF DISASTER, WE SHOULD CERTAINLY BE ABLE TO JUSTIFY THE USE OF THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE HEREIN REQUESTED.

5. IF IS FURTHER URGED THAT THE EMBASSY BE GRANTED A DISCRETIONARY FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000 DOLLARS FOR THE DOCTORS ASSIGNED HERE TO USE IN THE EVENT IT BECOMES NECESSARY FOR THEM TO RETAIN THE SERVICES OF MEDICAL SPECIALISTS OR PURCHASE MEDICINES AND/OR VITAMINS.  
THOMPSON

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